



MILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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~ 2005 TOWN REPORT ~

It has been a very exciting and busy year for employees of the Police Department. We were grateful that the citizens of Milford voted to support the construction of the new police facility. That construction has been on going since April of 2005. It is anticipated that completion of this building will be in April of 2006.

Personnel: In May of this year Russ Works was hired as the part-time custodian for our facility and has done a great job with the existing building under current conditions.

In June, Officer Sean Ostler was hired as a patrol officer within the Patrol Division. He successfully graduated from the Police Standards and Training Academy in November. Officer Ostler ranked sixteenth (16th) out of sixty-six (66) cadets. Congratulations to him for making us so proud in representing the Town of Milford.

In June, Detective Ray Jackson was promoted to the rank of sergeant in charge of the Detective Division. He has done an exceptional job in his new supervisory position.

In anticipation of Captain John Winterburn's retirement, Sergeant Chris Nervik was promoted to the rank of Captain in charge of the Support Division. He has done a fantastic job during this transition.

We said goodbye to Officer Bill Bright who left our agency to further his career with the New Hampshire State Police. We will all miss him.

In August, Patrol Officer Ben Lessard was transferred to Special Assignment due to the large increase in the major caseload in the Detective's Division. He has done a fantastic job under the command of Sergeant R. Jackson.

Also in August, Officer Dom Sterlin, who had been on Special Assignment to the Detective's Division, was elevated to Detective within that Division. Big congratulations to Detective D. Sterlin who has done an exceptional job.

Captain John Winterburn retired in August of this year after 20 years of service to a profession he so much loved and was dedicated to. All of us will miss him, not only as a co-worker, but also as an integral part of our organization, community and most importantly, as a friend. We wish Captain John Winterburn – retired, and his family all the best.

In September, Patrol Officer Scott Chovanec was promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. He is doing well in his transition.

In October, Officer Chris Blastos and Officer Matt Fiffield were hired as patrol officers within the Patrol Division. They are a welcome addition to our organization.



In December our agency hired a full-time attorney for the Prosecution Division. Throughout the year, we looked at the pros and cons of hiring a full-time attorney rather than having a certified police officer doing the Department's prosecution. In the end, it was clear that hiring a full-time attorney would bring more expertise and efficiency to our Department and streamline our work within the criminal justice system.

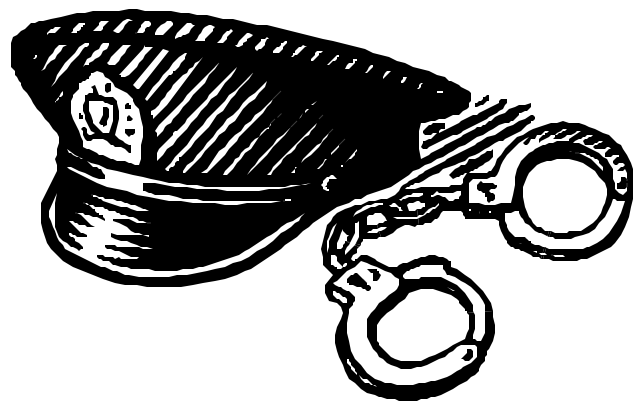
Attorney Michael McCall was selected out of several applicants during the hiring process. The decision to hire an attorney for this position has proven to be very beneficial to our agency and community.

Lastly, we wish to express our sadness at the passing of one of our former employees, Louise Simmons. Louise began working for the Milford Police Department on September 15, 1986 as the Parking Enforcement Officer. Parking Enforcement was a difficult job at best, but Louise handled it with efficiency and humor. She served the community well and on April 19, 1989 received the Community Citizens Award from the National Grange for her dedicated service. Louise retired on April 28, 1995.

Administration / Clerical: The support personnel continue to be a strong foundation for our organization. The full-time and part-time staff is very dedicated to the organization and community.

In March, Diane Franklin joined our agency as a part-time administrative clerk. In addition, in April Alendre Brooks rounded off our part-time administrative staff. The part-time staff is responsible for working all weekends, holidays, vacations and short notice call-ins for sick time in order to serve the citizens of Milford. These employees are an integral part of our organization and their dedication does not go unnoticed inclusive of my secretary, Ellen Works.

Patrol Division: The Patrol Division was very busy throughout this year. With new officers going through our extensive Field Training Program and the Police Standards and Training Academy, the average time for training a patrol officer is twenty to twenty-two weeks. During this time, the patrol officers working in the Patrol Division must take on the extra workload of calls for service.



The arrest statistics alone have increased by 11.93%. We have also, unfortunately, realized an increase in crime where firearms are becoming a factor and this is a concern for the Administration of this Department and our officers in the Patrol Division.

My thanks to Captain Richard Fortin, Patrol Sergeant Jim Crane, Patrol Sergeant Steve Toom, and Patrol Sergeant Scott Chovanec for their diligence in their respective supervisory roles. The "foundation" of our Patrol Division, the full-time and part-time patrol

officers, should also be recognized for their willingness to “Serve and Protect” under all circumstances.

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE/OFFICER ACTIVITY: 35,071

<u>Criminal</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Arson	7	1	-85.71%
Arrests	436	488	11.93%
Assaults	126	155	23.02%
Burglary	24	51	112.5%
Disorderly Conduct	76	69	-9.21%
Drug Violations	118	91	-22.88%
Domestic Violence	125	203	62.40%
Forgery	19	73	384.20%
Fraud	13	128	984.61%
Homicide	0	0	00%
Kidnapping	2	11	550.00%
Robbery	3	5	66.66%
Thefts (All)	218	178	-18.35%
Sexual Assaults	29	32	10.34%
Stolen Vehicles	22	12	-45.45%
Vandalism	272	236	-13.24%
Weapons Violations	5	3	-40.00%

<u>Non-Criminal</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Animal Complaints	238	245	2.94%
Accident (reportable)	324	334	3.08%
Alarm	440	488	10.91%
Citizen Assists	243	263	8.23%
Directed/Radar Patrols	2,931	2,510	-14.36%
Escorts/Civil Standby	541	643	18.85%
Fire Assists	113	108	-4.43%
Medical Assists	178	166	-6.74%
Missing Persons	20	25	25.00%
Mutual Aid	64	41	-35.94%
Runaway Juveniles	22	52	36.63%
Suicide/Attempted Suicide	16	11	-31.25%
Business Checks	17,298	17,891	3.43%
Miscellaneous	5,133	6,009	17.07%

<u>Motor Vehicle Statistics</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Summons	478	551	15.27%
Warnings	3,130	3,572	14.12%
Fatal Accidents	2	0	-100.00%
Parking Tickets	402	426	5.97%

Detective Division: Unfortunately our community has experienced an increase in high profile crimes during this year. These crimes range from strong-armed purse snatchings to multiple sexual assaults. There was also a notable increase in both residential and business burglaries during the first half of the year. It should be noted that

most, if not all of the high profile crimes, have been successfully investigated and the person(s) responsible have been arrested.

The Detective's Division, through their dedication and persistence in solving these crimes, made the largest "arrest sweep" in the history of the Milford Police Department. As a result, close to one hundred (100) felony charges were filed against various criminals. Many of these cases have already been adjudicated in court.

Also, the criminal investigation into the arson at the Garden Street School continues and progress is being made.

Through the statistics that follow below, it is obvious how busy the four (4) employees have been throughout the year. Captain C. Nervik, Sergeant R. Jackson, Detective D. Sterlin, and Officer B. Lessard should all be commended.

2005 TOTAL MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS: 311

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Homicide	1	0	-100%
Robbery	1	4	400%
Kidnapping	1	2	100%
Untimely/Unattended Deaths	5	4	-20%
Arson	3	1	-66.7%
Assault (all)	4	8	200%
Forgery	5	9	80%
Drug Cases	6	4	-33.34%
Witness Tampering	1	1	0%
Fugitive From Justice	0	1	100%
Juvenile Cases	7	10	42.86%
Indecent Exposure	2	1	-50%
Backgrounds (other agencies)	99	128	29.29%
MPD Backgrounds (new officers)	29	32	10.34%
Sex Offenders (registration req.)	19	22	15.78%
Sexual Assault	27	20	-25.93%
Burglary	8	36	450%
Theft/Fraud	24	23	-4.17%
Missing Persons	5	2	-60%
Criminal Mischief	4	5	25%
Domestic Cases	2	3	49%
Child Custody/Abuse	3	1	-66%
Child Pornography	4	1	-75%
Prostitution	1	0	-100%
Other Cases	23	0	-100%
Arrests/Assists	12	18	49%
TOTAL	275	311	13.09%

Prosecution Division: The number of criminal arrests, 488, is an 11.93% increase over last year and the number of criminal charges filed, 2,030, is an 8.09% increase over last year. These increases are a direct indication of the workload. This "work load" is initiated by the Patrol Division and the Detective Division and has a trickle down effect to Prosecution and all other support personnel.

It should be noted that our agency filed 122 juvenile petitions with the Milford District Court this year. The Milford District Court serves eight law enforcement agencies including the New Hampshire State Police. The Milford Police Department made up forty-nine (49%) of the total number of juvenile petitions filed in the Milford District Court. Our agency realized a forty-six percent (46%) increase over the number of juvenile petitions filed in 2004.

Due to the constant increase in juvenile related matters, which are not only time-sensitive but also time consuming, I find it necessary to request a full-time juvenile officer in the 2006 budget. Our goal is to have this position be responsible for closely monitoring all juvenile matters. This would include interacting with the parents, special interest groups, the juvenile court system and the juveniles themselves in order to take a proactive verses reactive stance when matters come to our attention.

2005 TOTAL PROSECUTION TRIALS/APPEARANCES: 1,286

<u>Category</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Arrests	434	488
O/T Hours	594	484
O/T Paid Out	\$18,145.12	\$18,525.90
Total Charges Filed	1,878	2,030
Scheduled Arraignments	491	476
Scheduled PC Hearings	619	688
Juvenile Petitions Filed	83	122
Total Events	1,193	1,286

K-9 Unit: Our agency still maintains that the K-9 Unit is most important to our organization and to the community. Officer Dean Hardwick and K-9 Zed continue to serve our community in the area of drug detection and as a deterrent to criminals. Their certifications stay current as they train three (3) times a month. This unit continues to be a credit to our agency and the community.

2005 TOTAL K-9 DEPLOYMENT/TRAINING: 136

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Building Searches (Alarms/Open Doors)	56	59	5.36%
Security / Search Warrant Assists	14	22	57.14%
Field Searches (Criminal Suspects/Fugitives/Missing Persons)	8	13	62.5%
Public Demonstrations	8	5	-37.5%
Total	86	99	15.12%
Total Training Hours	96	136	41.66%

School Resource Officer: We are in the sixth (6th) year since the initial SRO Grant was written in 2000, and this program continues to thrive. The "partnerships" that have been forged continue to be maintained and grow even stronger. The SRO also handles many incidents within the schools, as the statistics below will indicate. This

translates into some relief to the Patrol Division as otherwise they would be required to handle these calls for service.

2005 TOTAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER ACTIVITY: 315

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Assault	9	14	55%
Child Abuse	2	1	-50%
Arson	1	0	-100%
Safe School Zone Violations	9	8	-11.11%
Theft/Fraud	13	17	30.77%
Alcohol (minors)	0	3	100%
Disorderly Conduct	24	13	-45.83%
Tobacco (minors)	5	6	20%
Criminal Trespass	8	9	12.5%
Runaway	1	6	60%
Bomb Threat	3	0	-100%
Weapons/Explosive Violations	2	0	-100%
Domestic Cases	6	5	-16.67%
Town Ordinances	3	0	-100%
Sexual Assault (all)	2	1	-50%
Indecent Exposure	3	0	-100%
Drugs	8	9	12.50%
Criminal Mischief	14	9	-35.72%
Reckless Conduct	1	1	0%
False Public Alarms	2	1	-50%
Harassment	4	6	35%
Criminal Threatening	4	1	-75%
False Fire Alarms	0	1	-50%
Burglary	1	1	0%
Alarms	5	2	-60%
Accidents/Conduct After	7	7	0%
Fireworks	1	0	-100%
Medical Assists	4	9	125%
Property Cases	2	15	750%
Fingerprinting	101	95	-5.95%
Resisting Arrest	1	2	50%
Other	45	63	40%
Arrests/Assists	16	9	-43.75%
Total	309	315	1.9%

Closing Remarks: As our community continues to grow, so does the need for the expansion of public safety. The Administrative Staff, Captain Richard Fortin, Captain Christopher Nervik and I see the reflection of these needs every day as we go about our job responsibilities. Our concerns have been forwarded to the Town Administrator, Katie Chambers, and the Board of Selectmen several times through the course of the year. We truly feel that the citizens of Milford gauge their quality of life by knowing that they live in a safe and caring community. The very thought of their families and homes being "safe" in this community translates into public safety, which is made up of all public safety services. However, your law enforcement agency performs their job responsibilities 365 days of the year, 24 hours a day.

Because the demographics are rapidly changing in our Town, the volume and types of crimes are also changing. It is our duty and absolute responsibility to make recommendations during the budgetary process each year in order to try and maintain a good quality of life for every family and citizen in the Town of Milford.

In recent years we have received great support in obtaining the necessary funding to acquire the personnel and supportive equipment needed to do our job in a professional manner. One area of future concern is the condition of our fleet. We foresee increasingly high mileage on our vehicles and, though we hope it does not become reality, we anticipate expensive parts and labor expenditures in the coming years if we are not attentive to our vehicle replacement program.



I would also like to express my thanks to all the various Department heads and Town employees who have assisted us in the execution of our "Mission Statement" throughout the year. Their support and cooperation is the key that keeps the Town of Milford running.

Thank you for giving all of us the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick G. Douglas Jr., Chief of Police

